

Oakland Army Base, Vehicle Maintenance Shop
(Repair Shop) Building No. 812
Tobruk Street, between Warehouse Road
and Ukraine Street
Oakland
Alameda County
California

HAER No. CA-125-J

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
OAKLAND ARMY BASE, VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP
(Repair Shop)(Building No. 812)

HAER No. CA-125-J

Location: Tobruk Street, between Warehouse Road and Ukraine Street
USGS Oakland West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: Northing 4184900, Easting 560150

Date of Construction: May 1944

Architect: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco, California

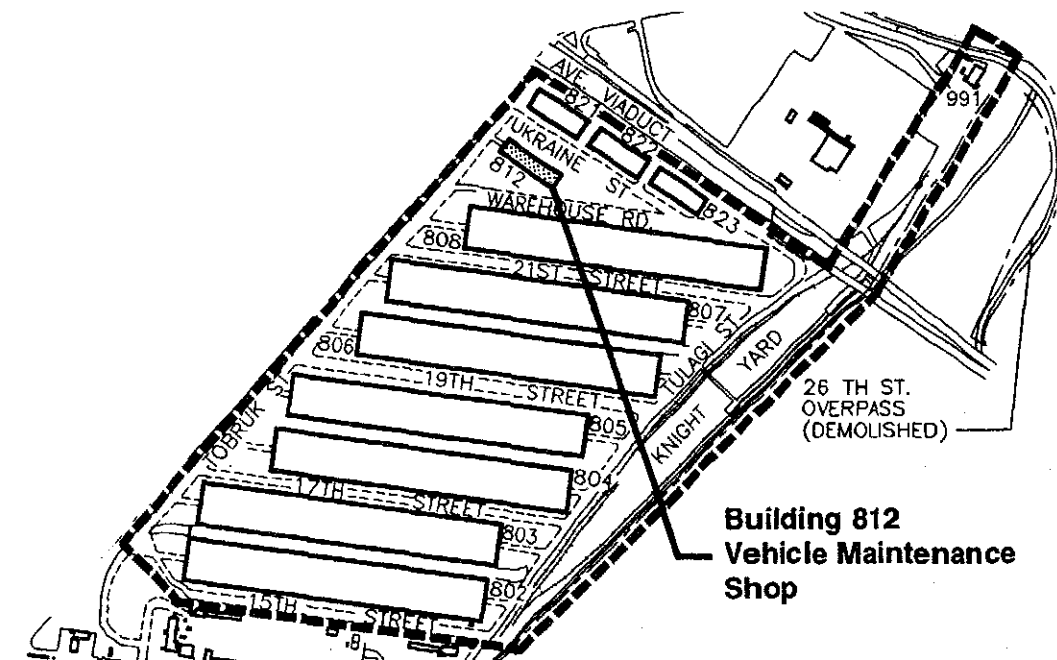
Contractor: At least initially, some 600 black troops of the 394th Quartermaster Battalion helped in construction of the Installation. Additional subcontractors and suppliers consisted primarily of businesses in the San Francisco Bay area.

Present Owner and Occupant: Military Traffic Management Command, Western Area
Oakland Army Base, CA 94626-5000

Original Use: Ordnance Maintenance Shop

Present Use: Vehicle Maintenance Shop

Significance: Building 812 housed activities integral to the military's wartime mission. The Ordnance Maintenance Shop was responsible for maintaining and repairing military supplies, including weapons, ammunition, combat vehicles, and tools and equipment.



Original Plans: Original plans were located in the OARB Engineering Office. According to the Real Property Record, the full set of As-Builts consisted of ten drawings: #57-16-40, sheets 1-10. All drawings are accounted for.

Alterations: Except for some modernization, renovation and repairs, Building 812 remains substantially unchanged.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural Character. Building 812 is similar in appearance to the warehouse structures to the south, with a central monitor bay and clerestory windows. The building is typical of many of the temporary wood workshops constructed by the military in support of their World War II mission.

Condition of Fabric. Overall, Building 812 is in good condition.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions. Building 812 is rectangular in shape: 280' long x 64' wide (18,345 gross square feet) (*Photographs CA-125-J-1 through CA-125-J-4*). A mezzanine level office with dimensions of 31'-5" x 13'-5" (425 square feet) is constructed at the west end of the building.

Foundations. The building is founded on wood piles with concrete floor slab and perimeter wall grade beams supported by the concrete pile caps.

Walls. Exterior walls are wood stud framed with diagonal board sheathing and painted wood siding.

Structural System. Building 812 has a heavy timber structure using laminated (bolted) wood columns and girders. Bolted wood sawtooth-type trusses span the monitor bay and provide clearance for bridge cranes the length of the building.

Porches, Stoops, Balconies. None.

Chimneys. None.

Openings. Originally, the building's windows were 4-sash wood units. These appeared in pairs on the lower floor, and were continuous on the clerestory level. The clerestory windows at the monitor, except those at each end, have been removed and the spaces filled with translucent corrugated plastic panels to diffuse sunlight. Ground floor windows have, for the most part, been replaced by aluminum frame windows (*Photograph CA-125-G-3*). All original wood sliding doors have been replaced with metal roll-up doors.

Roof. The roof is surfaced with built-up bituminous roofing on a wood deck. The roof slope is approximately 1 in 12 in the monitor bay; 5 in 12 in the side bays.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERIOR

Floor Plans. The center crane bay provides clear space the length of the buildings. The side bays include office and toilet spaces ranging from 224 to 672 square feet (*Photographs CA-125-J-5*).

Stairways. A wooden three-flight stairway serves the mezzanine level.

Flooring. The ground floor is an 8" thick cement slab. The mezzanine floor is constructed of 1" tongue and groove wood on a 1" sub-floor.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes. Walls and ceilings were unfinished with the exception of various partitioned rooms and offices, which were surfaced with 1/4" asbestos-cement board, or gypsum board.

Openings. All interior doors are solid core wood.

Decorative Features and Trims. No notable decorative features.

Hardware. No notable hardware.

Mechanical Equipment. Heating was provided by gas fired forced air units. A 28 gallon per hour gas fired water boiler was also installed. Lighting was provided by a mixture of overhead incandescent and fluorescent fixtures throughout the structure. The incandescent lighting has been replaced with mercury vapor along the crest of the monitor roof. Florescent fixtures are mounted at the pitched portion of the roof. A 20,000 pound bridge crane was supported by rails the length of the building.

Original Furnishings. None.

IV. SITE

General Setting and Orientation. Building 812 is located within the supply/storage land use zone on the Installation. Easy access is available to the berthing areas on the opposite side of Maritime Street.

Historic Landscaping Design. None.

Outbuildings. None.

V. SOURCES

Architectural Drawings. Real Property Records for Building 812 indicate that it was constructed from a set of architectural drawings consisting of ten sheets from file number 57-16-40. All drawings are accounted for. Five drawings have been reproduced and are included as a supplement to this survey.

Early Views. None.